

Missouri

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July 1, 2005

HEADLINE NEWS

Director's Welcome

Welcome to the new Missouri Focus, the Department of Economic Development's new and improved way to bring the latest news and information about our state's economic growth and our mission to create high paying, high quality, family-supporting jobs. Missouri is open for business and we're charting a new course for economic development and we want to reflect that in the Missouri Focus. We have taken the best elements from our various newsletters and combined them into a product designed to serve you on a weekly basis. We are confident the information you find here will be timely and useful to your economic development efforts. I hope you enjoy the Missouri Focus and I look forward to working with you in the future.



Sincerely,

Greg Steinhoff

Director

Missouri Department of Economic Development.

Eminent Domain



Gov. Matt Blunt has named a nine-member task force to study federal and state eminent domain laws after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against Connecticut homeowners who wanted the court to prevent their homes from being taken by a private developer for a commercial project. "This is a terrible ruling that undermines the balance that ought to exist between private property owners and the needs of the public," Blunt said. "I am charging this commission with conducting a thorough review of federal and state eminent domain laws to protect Missouri home, farm and business owners from falling victim to a government tax grab." [Read more...](#)

Court Rules On Use Tax

The Missouri Supreme Court has unanimously upheld the constitutionality of the state's use tax law that allows local governments to tax mail-order purchases at the same rate levied in local retail stores. The use tax generated \$76 million in 2004 for 67 cities and 29 counties across the state. In May 1994, the U.S.



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[Tax Credits Awarded to
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[Blunt Announces Half
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[Blunt Announces Release of
Another \\$2.6 Million in
Neighborhood Assistance
Tax Credits](#)

[Blunt Announces State Tax
Credits for Emergency](#)

Supreme Court ruled that Missouri's 1.5 percent use tax discriminated against interstate commerce, because in some parts of the state it was higher than the local sales tax. The Missouri Supreme Court then struck down the entire use tax law and millions of dollars were refunded to Missouri taxpayers. The state General Assembly responded with a new law allowing local jurisdictions to charge a use tax equal to the local sales tax rate which was the focus of the most recent ruling.



MERIC Wins National Award

MERIC recently received a national award from the Council for Community and Economic Research for excellence in the field of economic research. MERIC received the Award for Excellence in Projects that support Business Development Activities for its work on Target Missouri 3 - TM3, Industry Drivers of the Economy. TM3 was developed to assist economic development officials in targeting industries based on sound economic theory and methods; it is a methodology that allows one to determine the drivers of an economy. [Read more...](#)



Vulnerability of Missouri's Counties

MERIC recently conducted a study of employment and wages data to determine how dependent Missouri counties are on their largest employer. Among the conclusions: 16 rural counties, with more than 15% employed by just one employer, are highly vulnerable; least vulnerable are metro areas and populous suburban counties. [Read more...](#)

The Highs and Lows of Missouri Occupations

The 2003-2004 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Survey of Missouri's employment and wage information revealed that the state ranks 27th for employee annual average wages. The 2.63 million workers employed in the state's 722 occupations, on average, make \$34,130 a year. This figure falls just below the national average of \$37,020. This report highlights the 25 highest and lowest paying occupations in Missouri. [Read more...](#)

[Shelter, Child Advocacy Center in Columbia](#)

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**FOCUS ON
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**Ozark Project Wins HUD
Best Practices Award**

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**Academy Sports
+Outdoors is coming to
Joplin**



Human resources representatives from Academy used the Joplin Career Center to host initial interviews for store managers and will begin

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**Military Commission Sets
Meetings to Discuss
Missouri's Military
Missions**



The Military Preparedness and Enhancement



Missouri nominated the Ozark CDBG downtown revitalization project to HUD Region VII under the Best Practice awards competition and won. It also won the best overall project for this region. The Community Development Division felt that the project represented what the state really wants out of downtown revitalization. Missouri CDBG has won two other Best Practices awards from HUD.

AmeriCorps Grants to 266 Organizations

The Corporation for National and Community Service announced approval of \$155 million in grants to 266 organizations to support 27,591 AmeriCorps members for the 2005-2006 program year. [Read more...](#)

NAP Tax Credits for Five Neighborhood Improvement Projects

Gov. Blunt announced approval of \$935,000 in state tax credits for five not-for-profit, community-based organizations. To date, approximately \$7 million in Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits have been

general hiring by August. The Division of Workforce Development has career centers located throughout the state to assist employers in finding and retaining qualified Missouri employees. George Ortiz of Academy stated, "we expect to hire between 125 and 150 people by this fall." They anticipate a grand opening by November.

Commission will hold a series of meetings through September to discuss ways to defend Missouri's military missions affected by Pentagon recommendations to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The general public may provide written comments to the commission by submitting them no less than seven days prior to a meeting to: Sharon Gulick, Missouri Military Commission, Missouri Department of Economic Development, P. O. Box 118, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. [Read more...](#)

West Central Missouri Launches \$140,000 Regional Initiative

The Economic Development Committee of Pioneer Trails Regional Planning Commission has launched an extensive project to assist in the creation of new jobs within a four-county region. The committee includes development professionals from Lafayette, Johnson, Pettis and Saline counties as well as development experts from workforce and utility organizations serving the region. By combining resources and working regionally, the net impact will be enhanced extensively and the cost to local communities will be dramatically reduced. [Read more...](#)

approved to help these organizations raise funds for projects that strengthen and revitalize Missouri neighborhoods. [Read more...](#)

GLOBAL NEWS

Ford Cuts Earnings and Jobs



In an effort to put its turnaround back on course, Ford Motor Co. has slashed its 2005 earnings expectations and announced major new job cuts. Ford will reduce the workforce in its North American automotive operations by 5 percent, or about 1,700 jobs by Oct. 1.

"We remain committed to improving our cost structure, optimizing our global footprint and making essential investments for the future," said Ford CFO Don Leclair. [Read more...](#)

Foreign Carmakers are Pacing U.S. Auto Industry

Automakers from overseas first began building manufacturing plants in this country in the 1970s. As General Motors and Ford have been announcing thousands of job cuts, the foreign automakers are aggressively building new factories and expanding plants they opened not long ago. Foreign companies are moving to states eager for their investments, most of them in the Deep South, and hiring workers seeking the stability that home-grown companies can no longer offer. [Read more...](#)

Cities May Seize Homes for Economic Development

The Supreme Court ruled last week that local governments may seize people's homes and businesses - even against their will - for private economic development. As a result, cities now have power to bulldoze residences for projects such as shopping malls and hotel complexes in order to generate tax revenue. Judge John Paul Stevens said that local officials know best in deciding whether a development project will benefit the community, and states are within their rights to pass additional laws restricting condemnations if residents are overly burdened. [Read more...](#)

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Infrastructure Loan Brings Milling Company to Scott City



Gov. Matt Blunt announced last week that a ten-year, \$750,000 CDBG Action Fund Loan will bring the start up company Cape Milling LLC to Scott City. The company produces corn grits, meal and flour for the private sector and blended corn-based products for the federal foreign food assistance program. Cape Milling will invest over \$5.8 million in the project and create 40 new jobs. [Read more...](#)

K.C. Firms Among Best Places to Work in IT

Three Kansas City-area companies have been included in *Computerworld* magazine's 100 Best Places to Work in information technology. The national magazine ranked American Century Investments, Cerner Corp. and Aquila Inc. in its list. Of the three Missouri firms, American Century ranked fourth, Cerner was No. 48 and Aquila was No. 84. Quicken Loans Inc. of Livonia, Mich. was No. 1. *Computerworld* selected American Century third in terms of employee retention, fourth in career development and fifth in benefits. It also cited the company's low employee turnover of only 4 percent. The complete list is available online at www.computerworld.com.



Fort Leonard Wood Boost

The U.S. Army plans to send about 970 additional service members to Fort Leonard Wood during the next three fiscal years as part of active component changes. Increased capabilities include one multi-role bridge company with 183 authorizations in 2005; one combat heavy engineer battalion with 517 authorizations and two engineer mine dog training teams with five authorizations each; and one sapper company with 91 authorizations and two mobility augmentation companies with 85 authorizations each in 2007. [Learn more about Fort Leonard Wood...](#)

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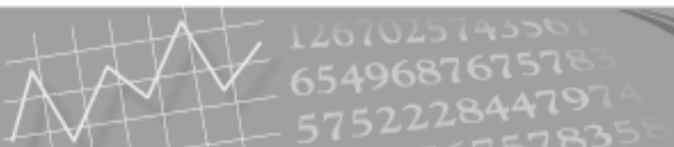
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[Blunt Announces Tax Credits For Substance Abuse Program](#)

[Blunt Announces Tax Credits For Career Education Program in Caruthersville](#)

[Blunt Announces Urich Will Receive State Grant for Downtown Revitalization Efforts](#)



Missouri Personal Income Growth Outpaces Nation's



Personal income in Missouri increased 1.1 percent, from \$181.57 billion to \$183.54 billion, from the fourth quarter of 2004 to the first quarter of 2005, outpacing the national average of 0.7 percent. Missouri ranked No. 21 nationally in personal income growth. [Read more...](#)

Number of Missouri Businesses Grows in 2004

Missouri reported an average of 158,393 private sector businesses in 2004, an increase of 1,822 from 2003, more than two times the number from the previous year. Payroll and average annual wage growth also posted strong gains compared to 2003. [Read more...](#)



NAP Project Celebrates Milestone



The Oregon County Country Music Theatre in Thayer, Mo celebrated its 10-year anniversary on Saturday, June 18, 2005 by providing - what else? - live country music. Along with the anniversary, event attendees commemorated paying off the loan on the century-old building by burning the mortgage note on the stage of the theatre during the ceremony.

[Read more...](#)

Adrian Receives State Grant for Downtown Revitalization

A \$400,000 downtown



Job Training Funds Awarded to Missouri Businesses



The Division of Workforce Development has approved nearly \$2.4 million in state assistance to help companies offset costs associated with training and upgrading the skills of thousands of Missouri workers. Funds through the Customized Training Program will be used to facilitate classroom training for more than 6,700 new or existing employees at 81 Missouri companies. [Read more...](#)

Businesses Invited to Business Forum



Congratulations, Carrollton!



The National Civic League recently crowned the 2005 winners of the coveted All-America Cities Award and Carrollton was among the ten winning communities. The award is the nation's longest running and most prestigious civic recognition program. The program encourages and recognizes civic excellence by honoring the communities in which citizens, government, businesses and nonprofit organizations demonstrate successful resolution of

[Blunt Announces El Dorado Springs Will Receive State Grant for Downtown Revitalization Efforts](#)

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revitalization grant through the CDBG Program will produce a more attractive, vital and stable downtown business district in Adrian.

[Read more...](#)

Missourians Honored for Outstanding Service to Others

Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder presented the Lieutenant Governor's Service Awards to 11 distinguished Missouri members of national service programs at an awards ceremony held at the State Capitol.

[Read more...](#)

Approximately 2,500 businesses in the Northeast Workforce Investment Region have been invited to participate in the 1st Northeast Missouri Business Forum scheduled Aug. 4, at the Moberly Area Community College campus in Kirksville. A host of speakers will represent OSHA, Missouri Training Institute, Department of Labor, MERIC, Truman State University, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Americans with Disabilities and Moberly Area Community College. Hands on sessions for Greathires.org and O*NET will be offered throughout the day. For more information, please contact Clarice Young, Division of Workforce Development Regional Manager at clarice.young@ded.mo.gov or the Northeast Missouri Workforce Investment Area office at (660) 327-5125.

critical community issues.

[Read more...](#)

St. Louis Dial Corp. Expands

Gov. Matt Blunt has announced the approval of \$100,000 development tax credits to facilitate the expansion of The Dial Corporation's manufacturing plant in St. Louis. Dial plans to start a new production line of Renuzit products and the tax credit benefits will offset part of the capital expenditures and equipment purchases needed for the production line. [Read more...](#)

Kawasaki Will Expand in Maryville

Development tax credits in the amount of \$150,000 will assist the expansion of Kawasaki Motor Manufacturing Corp. USA in Maryville. The company will invest in a production training line to provide real-time assembly and quality training to produce more skilled workers for production manufacturing jobs. An estimated 150 new employees will be added to the existing 700 workers. [Read more...](#)

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Ohio Gets \$89M Honda Parts Facility



Troy, Ohio, has been selected for an \$89 million distribution hub for American Honda Motor Company. The new facility will house Honda's Midwestern U.S. domestic parts distribution hub and a procurement support center. The project is expected to create 110 new jobs and retain 100 procurement jobs at Honda's existing Troy facility. [Read more...](#)

Gatorade Plant Goes to Wyeth County Virginia

Chicago-based Gatorade Thirst Quencher will create 250 jobs in Wyeth County Va. at a new \$140 million plant. "We are excited to award Virginia as the site of our newest plant," said Chuck Maniscalco, president of Gatorade. "The Wyethville area is a wonderful community and an important transportation hub to the mid-Atlantic and Ohio Valley," Maniscalco added. North Carolina and Maryland also competed for the Wythe project. [Read more...](#)

Iowa - New Zealand Form Partnership

Iowa and New Zealand have signed an agreement that will expand business and academic exchanges and opportunities between the state and country, particularly in plant, animal and human sciences. Michael Blouin, director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development, said the "unique agreement" with New Zealand helps raise Iowa's reputation in the biotechnology community. [Read more...](#)

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Blunt Signs Quality Jobs Act to Create Jobs, Spur Economic Growth



Keeping his pledge to create an economic environment that provides Missourians greater opportunities, on July 5th Gov. Matt Blunt signed into law the Missouri Quality Jobs Act tying job creation to economic incentives for businesses. The new law also increases the state's Tax Increment Financing cap from \$15 million to \$32 million annually; and allows local voters to determine whether a local sales tax for economic development will be beneficial for their area. [Read more...](#)

Danforth Center Gets Part of Gates Foundation Grant

The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center received \$3.3 million out of a \$7.5 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant will help fund the portion of research that scientists there are collaborating on with scientists from other research institutions to boost the nutritional value of cassava, a tropical root crop most commonly grown in savanna climates. [Read more...](#)



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to Host Women's Council
at Governor's Mansion](#)

[Rapid Response Team
Activated To Assist
O'Sullivan Industries
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[Rapid Response Team
Activated To Assist Nestle
USA Employees](#)

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Small Businesses Make Up Nearly 75 Percent of Missouri Businesses



Small businesses, those employing fewer than 10 employees, accounted for nearly 75 percent of Missouri businesses in 2004. While small businesses make up the majority of establishments in Missouri, they do not account for the largest percentage of employees. Almost 30 percent of Missouri workers are employed by medium-sized businesses employing ten to 49 workers. [Read more...](#)

Missouri's Manufacturing Index Shows Growth

Missouri's Purchasing Managers' Index was 56.0 in June, indicating expected expansion in the manufacturing sector for the next three to six months. [Read more...](#)



Gretchen Davis Awarded Prestigious Volunteer, Service Award



The Missouri Community Service Commission recently presented the 2005 Carnahan Service and Volunteer Award to St. Louis-area community leader and volunteer Gretchen Davis at a special awards dinner in Kansas City. [Read more...](#)

Tax Credits Revitalize Jennings Shopping Center

The city of Jennings will receive state remediation tax credits to help clean up and redevelop the former Northland Plaza into a new multi-million dollar retail and commercial shopping center, named the Buzz Westfall Plaza on the

Youth Info Share Convention in St. Joseph



The Northwest Missouri Workforce Investment Board Youth Council will host its first Youth Info Share Convention on October 5th in St. Joseph. The event will provide area youth service agencies, schools, clubs and organizations in the Northwest region a venue to share information about opportunities and services available through their programs. [Convention flyer](#)

Phelps County Career Center Open House

The Phelps County Career Center hosted an open house June 17 for more than 150 job seekers, employers and local dignitaries. The event was

Missouri School Districts Rated "Outperformers"



Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services recently recognized 24 Missouri school districts as academic "outperformers." [Read more...](#)

Blunt Signs Sales Tax Holiday and Economic Development Bills

Gov. Matt Blunt signed several bills on July 6. The new laws make the popular Sales Tax Holiday an annual event, strengthen the Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board and ensure businesses are responsible for their true unemployment tax liabilities. [Read more...](#)

Ford Begins Selling Second Hybrid Vehicle

Ford Motor Company began selling its second hybrid vehicle this week,

[Rapid Response Team Activated To Assist USF Dugan Employees](#)

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Boulevard. The project is expected to create up to 472 new jobs. [Read more...](#)

Tax Credits for Community Center in Kansas City

Gov. Matt Blunt announced approval of \$247,287 in Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits that will help leverage funds for a new community center in Kansas City's Ivanhoe community. [Read more...](#)

hosted by several local companies enabling Career Center partners to host booths providing information to attendees about their programs and services. Drawings were held throughout the day, ending with the grand prize of a 20" flat-screen television. [See photo...](#)

which will be built starting in October at the Kansas City-area Claycomo assembly plant.



[Read more...](#)

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GLOBAL NEWS

Securing Worldwide Trade



United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Robert C. Bonner recently submitted the United States' "Declaration of Intent" to adopt the World Customs Organization (WCO) "Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade." The United States was among the first nations to join the WCO's newly adopted strategy to secure global trade. [Read more...](#)

Clemson University Projects Benefits of ICAR

Clemson University estimates that the first phase of the International Center for Automotive Research (ICAR) will create 1,550 jobs paying an annual salary of about \$52,000. The university also predicts that the 25-acre, six-building research campus will generate nearly \$11 million a year in new property, sales and income tax revenue. [Read more...](#)

June Unemployment Rate Lowest in Four Years

The nation's unemployment rate in June fell to 5.0, its lowest level since September 2001, even as job growth came in weaker than most forecasts. The average hourly wage edged up 3 cents to \$16.06, a 2.7 percent increase over the last 12 months, while consumer prices rose 2.8 percent for the 12 months through May. [Read more...](#)

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Five Missouri Metros Noted for Strong Business Climates

Five Missouri metros were among 70 metros nationwide designated as "5-Star Business Opportunity Metros" in *Expansion Management* magazine's 3rd annual Mayor's Challenge. Making the list were Columbia (No. 2 - quality of life), Jefferson City, Kansas City (No. 3 - ranking among site consultants), Springfield and St. Louis (No. 2 - logistics infrastructure). [Read more...](#)

Missouri Labor Market Conditions Heat Up in June



More than 10,000 new jobs were created in Missouri in June while the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 5.4 percent - its lowest level in more than two years. [Read more...](#)

Governor Signs Springfield Economic Development Bill

Gov. Matt Blunt signed HB 431 on July 15, paving the way for new technology-based economic development in downtown Springfield by allowing Missouri Downtown Economic Stimulus Act financing to be used to aid the renovation of the MFA Mill, despite its location in a 100-year flood plain. [Read more...](#)

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Industry in Missouri: Short- and Long-Term Employment Growth Projections

MERIC short-term industry projections from 2004-2006 show stellar employment growth in the health care and social assistance, construction and accommodation and food services industries. Long-term projections (2002-2012) show excellent growth in health care and social assistance as well, and good growth in the administrative support and management services and educational services industries. [Read more...](#)

Jobs in Missouri Require a Variety of Training, Education and Experience

Over 60 percent of workers in Missouri are employed in occupations that typically require on-the-job training, most of which can be acquired in a moderate or short period of time. By contrast, nearly 20 percent of jobs typically require skills obtained through a bachelor's degree or higher. This trend is expected to continue in the next

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[Blunt Announces Five
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Organizations Receive
Neighborhood Assistance
Tax Credits](#)

[Blunt Announces
Enhanced Enterprise
Zone Designation for St.](#)

two years. [Read more...](#)

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

State Assists Doolittle Sewer Extension

DED awarded a \$500,000 CDBG wastewater grant to the city of Doolittle this week. The city will use the funds to install new wastewater collection lines, extending access to the public sewer system to approximately 118 residences located south of Interstate 44 that currently depend on failing private systems.



[Read more...](#)

\$1.1 Million in NAP Tax Credits Approved

\$1.1 million in Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits have been approved this week to help seven community-based organizations raise funds for projects that strengthen and revitalize Missouri neighborhoods.

[Read more...](#)

Rose Brooks Center Gets YOP Tax Credits

The Rose Brooks Center received \$153,079 in state tax credits through the Youth Opportunities Program. The tax credits are expected to leverage at least \$306,159 in

FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

Workforce Summit Planned in Joplin

The Workforce Summit of Southwest Missouri will be held from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 27 at The Butchers Block Banquet Center in Joplin. Lunch will be catered and will feature keynote speaker Jack Stack.



[Read more...](#)

ESL Classes Held in Louisiana

At the request of a local business, the Pike-Lincoln Technical Center, St. Charles Community College, Division of Workforce Development and NEMO Workforce Investment Office collaborated to bring English as a Second Language classes to Louisiana, Mo. Nearly 60 students attended the first week of classes.

DWD Seeks Presenters for Conference

The Division of Workforce Development is seeking presenters for the Governor's Conference on Workforce Development in October. You are invited to submit a proposal that

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Manufacturing Shows Strength in June

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City reported last week that manufacturing in the Tenth Federal Reserve District expanded solidly in June. The year-to-year index rose slightly and expectations for future factory activity remained relatively strong.



[Read more...](#)

Ballwin, Lee's Summit Among "100 Best Places to Live"

Money magazine recently ranked Ballwin, Mo. (No. 64) and Lee's Summit, Mo. (No. 77) in its list of "100 Best Places to Live" for 2005. Moorestown, N.J. topped the list at No. 1.

[Read more...](#)

St. Louis Firms to Present at BIO VentureForum

Four St. Louis-based biotechnology firms have been selected to make presentations at the 2005 Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) Mid-

[Joseph](#)

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donations to operate the center's Project Safe out of 33 schools throughout Kansas City. [Read more...](#)

addresses best practices within the workforce investment system. The Call for Presentations form is available online and is due August 5. [Call for Presentations form](#)

America VentureForum. The companies chosen were ISTO Technologies Inc., ISW Group Inc., Kereos Inc. and Orion Genomics. [Read more...](#)

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GLOBAL NEWS

Illinois Will Grant \$10 Million for Stem-cell Research



Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich has created a \$10 million grant program for stem-cell research projects in the state. The Illinois Regenerative Medicine Institute becomes only the fourth state in the nation to commit public funds to stem-cell research. [Read more...](#)

Tech Companies Clustering in Canada

About 32,000 information communications technology (ICT) companies are regionally clustered across Canada to take advantage of the country's educational and research infrastructure. Canada not only offers knowledge workers, but a KPMG study of business costs in 11 countries also found that Canada's cost of doing business is the lowest among the G-8 countries. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Native Designated Acting President of Ex-Im Bank

President Bush has announced his intention to name James H. Lambright as Acting President of Ex-Im Bank, replacing Philip Merrill who stepped down last week. Merrill said, "The Export-Import Bank will be in good hands with Jim Lambright. He has sound judgment, is a first-rate executive, and knows the Bank well." [Read more...](#)

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HEADLINE NEWS

Blunt Appoints Eminent Domain Task Force

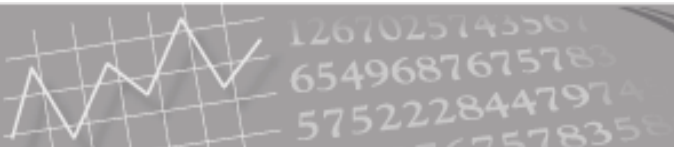


Gov. Matt Blunt appointed members to the Eminent Domain Task Force this week in response to the United States Supreme Court ruling against homeowners in Connecticut who fought to keep their private property from being taken by a private developer for commercial use. The task force will be charged with conducting a review of state and federal eminent domain laws and establishing criteria that state and local governmental entities will use when the use of eminent domain is being proposed. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Attracts Attention of Health Care Venture Investors

According to a report issued by BioEnterprise, Missouri was ranked second among 10 Midwest states and western Pennsylvania in attracting health care venture investors. Minnesota ranked first with companies attracting \$35.3 million in the second quarter 2005. Missouri attracted \$30.6 million in new investments, followed closely by Ohio with \$30.5 million. [Read more...](#)

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Gateway Skills 2005 - Mathematics and Science Intensive Occupations



High-tech occupations that require a high degree of knowledge in mathematics and science have, in the past, been linked to job security, advancements and high wages. In 2002, there were 19,710 mathematics-intensive and 41,010 science-intensive jobs in Missouri, which all paid much higher salaries than the state average wage. The need to provide training and education to meet the needs for innovative or high-tech industries in Missouri is the focus of this report. [Read more...](#)

Nursing in Missouri

Missouri has almost 80,000 Registered and Licensed Practical Nurses. Many job openings are projected in the nursing field in the coming years as the overall

COMMUNITY

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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 23-25, 2005

[2005 National NASWA LMI Directors' Conference](#)

August 25, 2005

[2nd Annual Missouri Economic Development Summit](#)

October 12-14, 2005

[Governor's Conference on Workforce Development](#)

October 23-26, 2005

[CoreNet Global](#)

ARCHIVED REPORTS

[Blunt Announces Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credits for Five Community-Based Organizations](#)

[Blunt Announces State Tax Credits for Projects That Provide Good](#)

population ages and the average age of nurses increases. In fact, this combination may cause many areas to experience a nursing shortage. [Read more...](#)



FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

Brownfield Tax Credits Help Redevelop Former School

Up to \$158,400 in Brownfield Redevelopment Program remediation tax credits were approved to assist with the cleanup of asbestos, petroleum and lead-based paint in the redevelopment of the former Heege Elementary School facility in St. Louis. The existing facility will be demolished and a new shopping center will house an anchor tenant and four retail shopping units creating approximately 41 new jobs. [Read more...](#)

Montgomery City Will Improve Access to Public Library

A Community Development Block Grant of \$74,918 will help improve the accessibility to the Montgomery County Public Library. The grant will help bring the facility into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by making improvements to the building's entrance, restrooms, and parking lot. [Read more...](#)

Springfield Area Designated Enhanced Enterprise Zone

The Missouri Department of Economic Development has approved Springfield's



FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

State Releases More Job Training Funds

The Division of Workforce Development recently released more than \$3.5 million in additional state job training assistance. The second round of fiscal year 2006 Customized Training Program grants will facilitate classroom training for more than 9,462 new or existing employees at 63 Missouri companies. [Read more...](#)

MWDP Certified Staff

To date, 198 DWD employees have attained Missouri Workforce Development Professional (MWDP) certification and the numbers are growing weekly. Missouri is the only chartered State Chapter of the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP). The proven knowledge and skill level of our workforce professionals is to be commended.

Open House at Jefferson City Career Center

The Missouri Career Center in Jefferson City, 1716 Four Seasons Drive, will be holding their first annual "Open House" Friday, August 12th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The public is invited and area businesses are



FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Missouri Revenue Collections Rise

Missouri's general revenue collections after refunds increased almost 6 percent in fiscal 2005 to \$6.71 billion from \$6.35 billion the prior year. Commissioner of Administration Mike Keathley said that the state "is moving away from a mentality of wasteful spending towards a new mentality of responsible budgeting and long-term planning." [Read more...](#)

Kansas City Gets Minority Economic Center

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation announced this month that Kansas City has the first one-stop "economic empowerment center" created by the Urban Entrepreneur Partnership. The partnership combines private, public and non-profit resources to expand entrepreneurship and jobs in underperforming urban areas. [Read more...](#)

Centene Corp. Will Acquire AirLogix Inc.

St. Louis-based Centene Corp. announced last week that it has acquired AirLogix Inc., a respiratory disease management company based in Dallas, for about \$35 million in cash. Centene provides managed care programs

[Opportunities for At-Risk Youth](#)

[Blunt Announces Release of \\$3.2 Million for Neighborhood Development Projects](#)

[QUICK LINKS](#)

[Dept. of Economic Development \(DED\)](#)

[State of Missouri](#)

[Missouri LocationOne](#)

[Missouri Training and Employment Council \(MTEC\)](#)

[MERIC](#)

[Missouri Community Service Commission \(MCSC\)](#)

[Missouri Arts Council](#)

[Missouri Economic Development Council \(MEDC\)](#)

[Missouri General Assembly](#)

[Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)



Questions or Comments?

Enhanced Enterprise Zone application that will encompass parts of the cities of Springfield, Battlefield and Greene County. [Read more...](#)

encouraged to attend. Tours of the facility will be provided and refreshments will be served. Staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about how we serve job seekers and businesses statewide.

and related services to individuals under Medicaid.

[Read more...](#)

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or email:

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GLOBAL NEWS

China Drops Tie to Dollar



China said last week that it will no longer peg its currency to the U.S. dollar but will let it float in a tight 0.3 percent band against a basket of foreign currencies. The yuan currency has been strengthened to a rate of 8.11 to the U.S. dollar - compared with the 8.28 it has been set at for more than a decade. [Read more...](#)

States Fighting "Jobs at Any Cost" Battle

In the high-stakes economic development poker game, states are sometimes overpaying for jobs to replace those lost in recent years. Sedgewick County Kansas Commission Chairman Dave Uhrh says, "What in the world is someone thinking when they pay more to a company in a direct benefit than what it will return the taxpayers?" [Read more...](#)

CAFTA: Inflows vs. Outsourcing

The Central America Free Trade Agreement could bolster local efforts to establish the Kansas City region as an inland trade port, but it could also increase outsourcing. Chris Gutierrez, SmartPort President said that U.S. exports to the CAFTA region are limited by high tariffs and that nearly 80 percent of all Central American products enter the United States duty-free. [Read](#)

[more...](#)



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